

Home of Slain Mrs. Bell And Negro Who Confessed



HOME OF MRS. BELL
GEORGE BISHOP

evidence and read to the jury by Becker's lawyer.

The first was the stipulation between Jacob Rose and Mr. Whitman, in which Rose consented to appear before the Grand Jury and testify and "waived any immunity" to which he might have been entitled because of appearance before the Grand Jury. Rose agreed "fully and truthfully" to testify as to the murder of Rosenthal. On his part Mr. Whitman agreed not to prosecute Rose, providing "the said Jacob Rose did not fire any of the shots at or into the body of Herman Rosenthal," and providing Rose would agree to remain in the city prison until the case against Becker was at an end.

SAM SCHEPPS ALSO OBTAINED IMMUNITY FROM WHITMAN.

Mr. McIntyre then read the agreement with "Sam" Schepps, who said he had knowledge of Becker's guilt and agreed to testify against him. The stipulation provided that if he should not be prosecuted, providing he, too, fired no shots at Rosenthal. All these agreements were witnessed before Justice Mulqueen.

Mr. McIntyre then demanded the written confession of Jack Rose and agreed to put it in evidence. Justice Goff ordered Mr. Whitman to produce the paper handed by Jack Rose to the District Attorney—not the confession. This statement of the bald gambler, already published several times, was read to the jury by Mr. McIntyre. In it Rose set out his relations as a graft collector for Lieut. Becker. At this point Mr. McIntyre called upon Attorney Whitehead to finish reading the long affidavit.

"I have been up nearly all night and am tired out," said the chief counsel for the defense, who looked badly fatigued.

Mr. Whitehead continued the reading of the confession. The affidavit was a bulky document, written on full-sized letter paper in the delicately effeminate hand of the suave gambler.

The reading of the affidavit occupied thirty-seven minutes, and the jury, leaning forward in their seats, paid rapt attention to the marvellous confession. Several minor differences between this statement and Rose's story on the stand were apparent, though none of them appeared at the time to be material.

PLITT SAYS ROSE FORETOLD KILLING OF ROSENTHAL.

After the confession had been put in evidence, the defense called Lewis Plitt, brother of Charles Plitt, who has been mentioned in the case as Becker's press agent and stool pigeon. The witness, a black-haired young man with a long hook nose, conferred for a few minutes with Justice Goff before he began his testimony. He said he lived at No. 411 East One Hundred and Eighteenth street. He had known Jack Rose six months.

Q. (By Mr. McIntyre) Did you visit Jack Rose in the Tombs in July at his request? A. I did. He sent a special messenger for me. I saw him in cell 112.

Q. Did you talk about Becker to Rose and did Rose get down on his knees and say as follows: "Plitt, by the grace of my dear mother, send me to see Becker and tell him nothing but I say that Becker had nothing to do with the murder?" A. No, sir.

Q. Did he say anything else? A. No, sir.

Q. Do you remember talking with Rose a month before the murder of Rosenthal? A. I do.

Q. On the occasion, did Rose say he intended to have Rosenthal killed? A. No, sir.

Q. Where was that? A. At Forty-fifth street and Broadway.

Q. Can you fix the time? A. Six weeks before the murder.

Q. You may cross-examine, said Mr. McIntyre. In answer to Mr. Moss, Plitt said he had known Becker socially for three years and had visited him often.

Q. Didn't you often confer with Becker while your brother, Charles Plitt, was on trial here for murder? A. No.

Q. Didn't you ever see Becker and your brother together after his acquittal? A. I did not.

Q. Where did you say you heard Rose say he intended to kill Becker? A. At Broadway and Forty-sixth street.

Q. Who was there? A. No one else.

Q. And he just said casually he intended to kill Rose? A. Yes.

Q. To whom did you tell that Rose said to you in the month of May that he was going to have Rosenthal killed? A. To my brother.

Q. And you and your brother are friends of Becker? A. Yes.

Q. Did you tell Becker about this? A. No.

Q. Why didn't you? A. I didn't know.

SAYS HE WAS AFRAID OF BEING ARRESTED.

Q. Why didn't you tell Becker? A. I was afraid I would be arrested.

Q. Come now, said Mr. Moss, "Tell me the real reason why you didn't tell your friend, Folliesman Becker, that Rose was going to kill Rosenthal?"

"That's objected to isn't it?" answered the witness.

"You answer it," yelled Mr. Moss.

"Well," hesitated Plitt, "my brother was arrested for murder when he talked to Assistant District Attorney Strong."

Every effort to get a direct answer from the witness failed.

Q. Did you tell Rosenthal Rose was going to kill him? A. No.

Q. Or any other police officer? A. No.

Q. Why? A. I didn't know Rose was in earnest.

Q. Did you just tell your brother you heard a good joke the night before? A. No, I told him what Rose said.

Q. When you visited Rose in the Tombs, did you use your own name? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you sure you did not go there under an assumed name? Quite sure? A. Yes, sir.

That ended Plitt's appearance before the jury.

Robert A. Smith followed Plitt. He said he lived at No. 124 West Forty-

eighth street and was a contractor. He had a slight acquaintance with Rose and Webster.

Q. (By McIntyre) Do you recall the evening of the Rosenthal murder? A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember being in the Madison Square Garden on the night of the murder? A. No, sir.

Q. Did Rose say to you that he was going to kill Herman Rosenthal? A. Not in that way.

Q. Did Rose say to you that Rosenthal would be killed as sure as his name was Jack Rose? A. No, but he did say that if Jack Zelig hadn't gotten out of trouble he would have been killed before.

Q. Did "Bridge" Webster say to you four days before the murder: "I could cut Kerman Rosenthal's throat and lie down beside the body?" A. Not exactly in those words.

Q. Did he say he could cut Rosenthal's throat and lie down and sleep with him all night?

The witness declared that as Webster said this he had pointed at Rosenthal.

"That is all," concluded Mr. McIntyre.

WHITMAN ATTEMPTS TO BREAK DOWN THE WITNESS.

District Attorney Whitman took up the cross-examination. He got from the witness that his brother "did not run a gambling house now."

Q. Were you ever directly or indirectly interested in a gambling house on West Forty-eighth street? A. Only indirectly. I put up the money for my brother.

Q. You haven't given him any money to run a gambling house since Rosenthal was murdered? A. No.

Q. Smith swore he had never given his brother more than \$1,000 at any time. Before he went into the contracting business, the witness said he had bred and raced horses.

Q. Are you a married man? A. Yes.

Q. Is your wife Grace Holmes?

The heavy-set, florid-faced witness threw back his head and turned almost blue in the face.

"I refuse to answer," he said.

The opposing counsel got into a bitter wrangle.

"I object to the insinuating tone of the District Attorney," said McIntyre.

"For all he knows the witness's wife may be a most estimable woman."

The Court ruled that the question must be answered.

"Yes, she is my wife," said the witness.

"What is your wife's business?" asked Whitman.

"She has none," choked out the witness.

The prosecutor gave up this line and went back to Jack Rose. Smith denied that he had ever been a friend or an acquaintance of Jack Rose.

Q. Not even an acquaintance and yet he told you that if something hadn't happened to Jack Zelig Rosenthal would have been troubled before? A. Yes, he told me that.

Q. And Webster told you he would like to cut Rosenthal's throat? A. He did.

SAYS HE TOLD ABOUT THE THREATS.

Q. Now, did you tell anybody about those remarks? A. Yes, lots of people.

Q. Who? Oh, I don't remember any one in particular.

Smith said he had gone to Mt. Clemens shortly after the murder and he could not remember to whom he had told of Rose's earlier threat.

He could not mention a single person to whom he had talked, though Mr. Whitman was most insistent upon knowing.

"I will answer," said Smith, "because I might name the wrong man by mistake."

Mr. Whitman: "Isn't it a fact that the reason you fail to remember the name of a single person you told this story to is because you know I will call those persons, and you know they will contradict you?"

Mr. McIntyre entered a strenuous objection, but the witness was forced to answer.

"No, sir," he said.

Smith said that after his return from Mount Clemens and before he went he had told Val O'Farrell, a detective employed by the Becker defense, of the Rose threat. He could not remember to whom he had told of the Rose threat.

Q. Did you tell O'Farrell that he told O'Farrell, Smith said, he did not know for whom the detective was working.

Smith admitted he had held frequent conferences with Val O'Farrell regarding the case.

Q. Repeat the conversation you had with Webster? A. He came to me in front of the Metropolitan, pointed to Rosenthal and said: "There is a Jew, I could cut his throat and lie down beside him."

Q. Did any one else hear that conversation? A. I do not know.

Q. Didn't it seem peculiar that a man you knew only slightly would make such a statement to you? A. A lot of things I hear seem peculiar to me.

Smith was sure he had told a number of people of these conversations. In addition to Val O'Farrell, but he refused to give the name of any one of them.

Justice Goff ordered the cross-examination to end while the District Attorney was hammering at the witness for the names.

NOTARY SMITH'S STORY OF DORA GILBERT AFFIDAVIT.

Another Smith, this time named Louis, followed the contractor on the stand. He is the Smith who acknowledged the affidavit of Dora Gilbert, Rosenthal's former wife, in which she denounced the gambler as a wretched and a pervert.

The witness said that on July 15—the night before the murder—he had gone to the house of Dora Gilbert with Charles Plitt, Becker's press agent, and Sam Schepps.

The notary had written out the story

A. Oh, yes, of course.

Q. At what hour did Lieut. Becker come home? A. At 11:30 P. M.

Mr. Whitman cross-examined.

Q. To whom did you first talk of this matter? A. I talked to my wife.

The papers had a story that Lieut. Becker was with Jack Rose at Far Rockaway that evening and I told Becker I knew he wasn't.

Q. Did you tell the Police Commissioner you were there? A. No, sir.

Q. Why? A. Because I did not think it necessary.

"Even when a lieutenant was indicted for murder and Schepps had been called at Becker's house, you did not think it necessary to tell the Police Commissioner?"

The Court excluded.

Lieut. Shea said he had told Val O'Farrell and a number of police officers of his visit to Becker on that night.

Justice Goff accepted the paper again, reread it and struck to his first ruling.

"I sustain the objection," he said.

But the defense wouldn't let it go at that. Lieut. Becker was called in.

"Kindly read it all over carefully. Your Honor," pleaded the attorney.

Justice Goff accepted the paper again, reread it and struck to his first ruling.

Even then Becker's counsel wouldn't give up.

"I desire to connect this paper with the defendant," urged Mr. McIntyre.

"For the purpose of further argument."

"That is enough," the Court ruled.

"My ruling will stand. Go on with the case."

Then Notary Smith was dismissed without cross-examination.

One of the most important phases of Sam Schepps' testimony against Becker was his story of the murder.

Patrick B. Shay took the stand and swore that he (Shay) and his wife were at Becker's apartment on the night after the murder and remained until midnight. Schepps had not called at the flat, insisted the witness. No one had called there that night.

When Jack Rose's lobbyguy was on the stand he swore he had called on Becker that night to deliver the message that Jack Rose was a physical wreck and wanted to know what to do.

Schepps also swore that Becker had told him to tell Rose to lie low and stay where he was in Harry Pollok's flat.

Shay, who was questioned by Hart, said he was attached to the Forty-second precinct and that he had been an intimate friend of the prisoner for twenty years.

MAKES COMPLETE DENIAL OF SCHEPPS'S STORY.

Q. Were you at his home on the night of July 17? A. Yes, with my wife. We remained until midnight.

Q. Who did you see there? A. Mr. Becker and Mrs. Becker. Mr. Becker came in late.

Q. In what room were you? A. In the parlor and dining room.

Q. Did you see Lieut. Becker that evening? A. Yes.

Q. What were you doing there? A. Making a social call.

Q. The house was lighted up? A. Yes.

Q. Did any one else come in during the evening? A. No, sir.

Q. Did Sam Schepps come there? A. No, sir.

Stipulations Made by Whitman Giving Immunity to Witnesses

Following is the covenant entered into by the District Attorney and Jacob, alias Jack, Rose, in which the gambler is granted immunity in the Rosenthal murder case on condition that he testify for the State:

"Jacob Rose hereby waives rights under the law and agrees to give evidence. He signs the same voluntarily, and fully agrees to go before the Grand Jury and give all his knowledge concerning the murder of Herman Rosenthal and the connection of Charles Becker with it.

"And the District Attorney, with the consent of the Court, agrees that Jack Rose shall not be prosecuted for any of his part in the murder, providing he did not fire any of the shots and testifies truthfully.

(Signed), "CHARLES S. WHITMAN, District Attorney of the County of New York."

"JACOB ROSE."

The covenants made with Sam Schepps, Harry Vallon and "Bridge" Webster are practically the same.

Do Not Take the "Just as Good."

FILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS. Your druggist will refund money if PAIN EXISTENT fails to cure any case of Rheumatism, Gout, or Strained Muscles in 6 to 14 days. 50c. per bottle.

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to talk to Mrs. Rosenthal? A. I did not see them.

Q. Was Max Margolis present at any time when Lieut. Becker ordered you to raid Rosenthal's place? A. At no time was he present.

Q. When the prisoners were arraigned in the West Side Court, was Lieut. Becker there? A. No, sir.

Jack Rose had sworn he talked with Becker at this arraignment.

Q. When you were raiding that house, did Mrs. Rosenthal offer to open the door if you would stop hammering and did she say "For Heaven's sake, what does this mean?" A. No, sir; she did not.

Mrs. Rosenthal had sworn she had.

Q. Did Becker say "s-s-s-s-h" to him to be hush or not? A. I heard so much thing.

Q. Where was Mrs. Rosenthal when you got to the house? A. She was coming down from the third floor.

Q. Did you hear her say to Becker: "Please don't let them break up my home?" A. No, sir.

Q. Did you hear Becker say "Tell Kerman we will square that \$1,500 debt?" A. No, sir.

Shepard swore he was close enough to have heard any conversations between Becker and Mrs. Rosenthal and he denied categorically the conversations Mrs. Rosenthal swore she had had with Becker on the night of the murder.

DENIES STORY TOLD BY MAX MARGOLIS.

Shepard said he knew Max Margolis, the confessed perjurer, but denied that the tipster was present when Becker ordered that evidence be secured against the Rosenthal gambling joint.

He denied emphatically the story of Margolis that Becker had described the interior of the Rosenthal house, upon which description the officers were alleged to have secured their warrants.

He insisted that he had personally entered the house in the guise of a gambler and had secured his evidence in that way.

Did you turn over to Mr. Moss for cross-examination, but the court soon adjourned until Monday morning at 10:30.

him to the corridor. Then the cell was thoroughly investigated.

TIN PAIL HAD FALSE BOTTOM FOR SAWS.

It was found Bars, concealed by a big towel which he used for wiping his hands after washing in the cell sink and hung at all times against the bars of the cell, ostensibly to dry, had sawed through two of the bars so far that only a slight pressure served to bend them outward sufficiently to allow the passage of a man's body. In the interval, when he was unable to saw, Bars had hidden the scars in the steel bars with soap.

It took the warden and his assistants a long time to find the saws. Eventually they concentrated their efforts on the tin pail. They measured and found it had a false bottom. Lifting this out, they found a space about a quarter of an inch deep in which were snugly tucked away three saws for cutting tempered steel.

The letter was found in Bars' cell. It recited that he had decided to leave the Long Island City Jail because his health was poor, having been ruined by a previous experience with rotten prison food. Rather than go back to prison, he wrote, he would take his departure from these shores. He assured any witness might read the letter that they would never hear of John Bars again in these parts.

Lieut. McKoon succeeds Capt. Hodgins.

The death of Capt. William Hodgins left a vacancy in the Police Department, which was filled to-day by Commissioner Waldo by the promotion of Lieut. John J. McKoon, who was Capt. Hodgins' right hand man in the Bronx Park precinct. Capt. McKoon was assigned to the Wakefield precinct and Capt. Dennis Ward, of Wakefield, was transferred to the Bronx Park station.

Sergeant William H. Smith, at the head of the eligible list, was promoted to lieutenant, and fourteen patrolmen were made sergeants.

Patrolman Joseph P. Shepard of the Thirty-seventh precinct, former member of the Strong Arm Squad, was called to tell of the Rosenthal raid on April 15.

He had gone to Rosenthal's place with White and Steiner and another man. They broke in at 9:30 o'clock P. M.

McIntyre got the witness to tell how he had gone into Rosenthal's place two nights before the raid and played the wheel.

"I bought \$50 worth of chips," swore Shepard, "and played the wheel. White and Steiner also played the wheel."

This testimony was regarded as highly important to the defense. The State, by several witnesses, has sought to prove that Becker's money or to Police Commissioner Waldo against Rosenthal's gambling resort. Several witnesses swore they heard Becker tell White and Steiner the description of the interior of the place, and that the whole raid was a joke.

Q. Do you remember the night of the raid, and if so tell me just what you did? A. I met Lieut. Becker, White and Steiner at the corner of 42nd street and Broadway and met some other officers. Then we entered the premises and apprehended the prisoners I wanted.

WHAT BECKER DID AT THE ROSENTHAL RAID.

Q. Tell us all that occurred during that raid? A. There was a lot of noise and racket. Then a lady came down and talked to Lieut. Becker. He had told me to "pick out the men for whom you have warrants." I picked out Herbert Hall. Then the woman asked Becker if he wouldn't take the waiter, and not take her nephew. Becker asked me if I had a warrant for the young man. I said I had. "All right," then Lieut. Becker said, "take him along."

Mrs. Rosenthal was still bawling Lieut. Becker to take the waiter instead of her nephew.

Q. Did you hear her say: "Come into the back—I want to talk to you?" A. Oh, that's right. I did hear her say that and I heard Lieut. Becker say: "If you've got anything to say, say it to me right here."

Q. Did Lieut. Becker go down stairs

BEAT A WOMAN TO DEATH; LEFT HER MAID DYING

(Continued from First Page.)

all of the scattered bits of evidence have jumped together to make a perfect narrative of a crime. This is the way it goes, according as the detectives read the broad script of human passions under the impulse to kill.

An aged woman, Mrs. Bell, lived more or less the life of a recluse with her son Charles, who is employed in a hardware store on Chambers street in New York. Mrs. Bell, seventy-eight years old and for more than a score of years a widow, was comfortably well to do. She lived well, though her wants were few.

The old lady's single passion was for jewels and baubles. Things of price done in gold and jet and amber she loved. She had diamonds set in the old style with jet foils; she had rubies ponderously imbedded in heavy gold earrings of the style when Mrs. Lincoln was the first lady of the land. Garnet clusters and old jewels graced her brilliant and sapphires were the beautiful children of the old lady's declining years.

FLASHED HER JEWELS IN WALK THROUGH PARK.

She was simple in her pride of these beautiful and ancient jewels. She used to wear more than most old ladies do of ornaments when she went out each day for her walk in Fort Greene Park.

She had a way of flitting her hands about in the strong sunlight so that sharp sparks would play and dance from the facets of the diamonds on her fingers. Though her son used to warn his mother occasionally, caution was not a thing she thought about.

She had a negro maid—a young woman in her early twenties, who came from Wilmington, N. C. The maid had, of course, every occasion to see the wealth of Mrs. Bell's jewels.

The maid lived in the house and her husband, who passed under the name of George, called to see her in her basement room occasionally. He met Mrs. Bell as he was sitting in the kitchen occasionally. She knew him as George.

Three months ago the maid suddenly decided to go to her home in North Carolina. She left hurriedly. She got no "reference" from her employer. For some time Mrs. Bell heard nothing of the girl and the new maid she had obtained, an elderly, afoer faced Irish woman named Mary Hogan, filled the place downstairs.

Then one day several weeks ago George, the husband of the negro maid who had gone, appeared and asked Mrs. Bell to give him a "reference" for his wife. For some reason he did not get it. He returned several times; in fact, he was at the Bell house three times in the past two weeks, each time asking for that "reference."

SON LEFT THE TWO WOMEN ALONE IN HOUSE.

Last night shortly after dinner Charles Bell, the son, announced that he would be away from home until after his mother's bed time. He left the house. The woman over seventy and the woman in her fifties were left unprotected.

It was about 7:15—perhaps a few minutes later—that a ring came at the front door bell. Mary Hogan shuffled along the hall hallway to the front door and opened it. A negro was standing there; it was the same negro she had seen on two other occasions. He asked for Mrs. Bell—said he must see Mrs. Bell.

Now it happened that Mrs. Katherine Foster, who rents rooms on the second floor of the house from Mrs. Bell, passed through the open door on her way upstairs just as the negro was making his request. She saw that it was a young colored man; that he was dressed in a light suit and that he had a mild, low spoken voice.

Mary Hogan showed the negro into the front room, the parlor. Then she passed through two intervening rooms to Mrs. Bell's bedroom in the rear on the first floor to tell her. She heard Mrs. Bell address the caller as George then she went down stairs to her tasks.

The police have filled in the gaps in the narrative which are left un-

spoken because of the murder. The negro again brought up the question of his wife's "reference"—possibly expostulated with the aged woman because she had withheld this valuable asset for a servant. He consumed time by talking, cautiously listening to the while, to ascertain whether or not the son Charles was in the house. He determined that he was not; that with the exception of the woman upstairs he had only to deal with two helpless old women.

STRUCK HIS VICTIM DOWN WITH A HAMMER.

The gas light was on in a single jet. The room was heavily shadowed. In fact, it was not until Mrs. Bell's eyes had grown accustomed to the gloom that she had been able to recognize the man she knew as George. The murderer, measuring the distance between himself and his victim, suddenly stood up. His hand came from his pocket, weighted with a hammer. He struck.